

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please CANCEL claims 1-3 and 6-9, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please AMEND the claims as indicated below:

1. (CANCELED)

2. (CANCELED)

3. (CANCELED)

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~ An optical module as ~~claimed in claim~~

~~3,~~ comprising:

a ferrule, an optical fiber which penetrates a center thereof along an axis direction of the ferrule;

a member inserted with the ferrule;

a sealed container, connected to the member, having an optical system which optically couples to the optical fiber;

a resin portion encapsulating the member and the sealed container; and

a communication path including a first communication passage between the ferrule and the member, a space where the optical system and the optical fiber confront each other, and a second communication passage between the ferrule and the member, said first and second communication passages being mutually independent, wherein

the first and second communication passages are provided in at least one of the ferrule and the member,

the ferrule and the member respectively have a cylindrical shape, so that an outer peripheral surface of the ferrule contacts an inner peripheral surface of the member, wherein and

the ferrule has flat surfaces extending in the axis direction in a portion of the outer peripheral surface thereof, and the first and second communication passages are defined by the flat surfaces and the inner peripheral surface of the member.

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5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~ An optical module as ~~claimed in claim~~

~~3,~~ comprising:

a ferrule, an optical fiber which penetrates a center thereof along an axis direction of the ferrule;

a member inserted with the ferrule;

a sealed container, connected to the member, having an optical system which optically couples to the optical fiber;

a resin portion encapsulating the member and the sealed container; and

a communication path including a first communication passage between the ferrule and the member, a space where the optical system and the optical fiber confront each other, and a second communication passage between the ferrule and the member, said first and second communication passages being mutually independent, wherein

the first and second communication passages are provided in at least one of the ferrule and the member,

the ferrule and the member respectively have a cylindrical shape, so that an outer peripheral surface of the ferrule contacts an inner peripheral surface of the member, wherein and

the ferrule has grooves extending in the axis direction in a portion of the outer peripheral surface thereof, and the first and second communication passages are defined by the grooves and the inner peripheral surface of the member.

6. (CANCELED)

7. (CANCELED)

8. (CANCELED)

9. (CANCELED)

10. (ORIGINAL) An optical module producing method for producing an optical module which is provided with a ferrule an optical fiber which penetrates a center thereof along an axis direction of the ferrule, a member inserted with the ferrule, a sealed container connected to the member and having an optical system which optically couples to the optical fiber, a resin portion encapsulating the member and the sealed container, and a communication path including a first communication passage between the ferrule and the member, a space

where the optical system and the optical fiber confront each other, and a second communication passage between the ferrule and the member, said first and second communication passages being mutually independent, said optical module producing method comprising the step of:

- (a) placing at least the ferrule and the member within a mold; and
- (b) supplying a gas to the first communication passage and exhausting the gas from the second communication passage when supplying melted resin into the mold to form the resin portion.

11. (ORIGINAL) The optical module producing method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said step (b) supplies pressurized dry air to the first communication passage.

12. (ORIGINAL) The optical module producing method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the mold includes a first hole and a second hole, and said step (b) supplies the gas to the first communication passage via the first hole, and exhausts the gas from the second communication passage via the second hole.